



Tanzanian history

As a result of the partition of Africa in the 1880's, German's took control of Tanganyika in 1891, whilst Britain gained Uganda, Kenya and Zanzibar. Numerous rebellions occurred in opposition to German rule, and wars were rife in early years - The most famous of uprising being the Maji Maji rebellion in which local leaders believed that magic water from a specific spring would protect against bullets. By 1907 the Tanganyikan uprising was brutally crushed by German troops, villages were burned, crops ruined and crops stolen. Work then began on the construction of a railway from Dar es Salaam to Kigoma. However, as the railway arrived in Kigoma in 1914, it was not much use to the Germans due to the arrival of World War One. Following the Allies victory in 1918 Tanganyika was mandated to the British. British rule was relatively kind in comparison to their oppression of Kenya, and the events in the previous German period: Dar es Salaam was expanded, and the railway extended to Mwanza on Lake Victoria. However, as with most colonial territories, the economy was constructed to draw wealth out of the nation. By 1954, the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) was created with the objective of national liberalization. TANU was headed by Julius Nyerere, a recent graduate from Edinburgh University (and one of the only 2 Tanganyikan graduates at the time). In 1961, Britain conceded to TANU, and Tanganyika received independent status in 1961. Thus Jullius Nyerere became the new president of Tanganyika and in 1964, created an act of Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar, creating the newly renamed United Republic of Tanzania.

Known as Mwalimu meaning teacher or Baba wa taifa meaning Father of the nation, Julius Nyerere is admired and often idolized by the majority of the Tanzanian population. His main accomplishment was the creation of National consciousness. His policies, which included the abolition of tribal chiefdoms and the adoption of Kiswahili as the national language to be taught in all primary schools, resulted in internal peace and stability – a rarity among African countries. Nyerere also made great strides in education and healthcare. In 1961, Tanzania had only 2



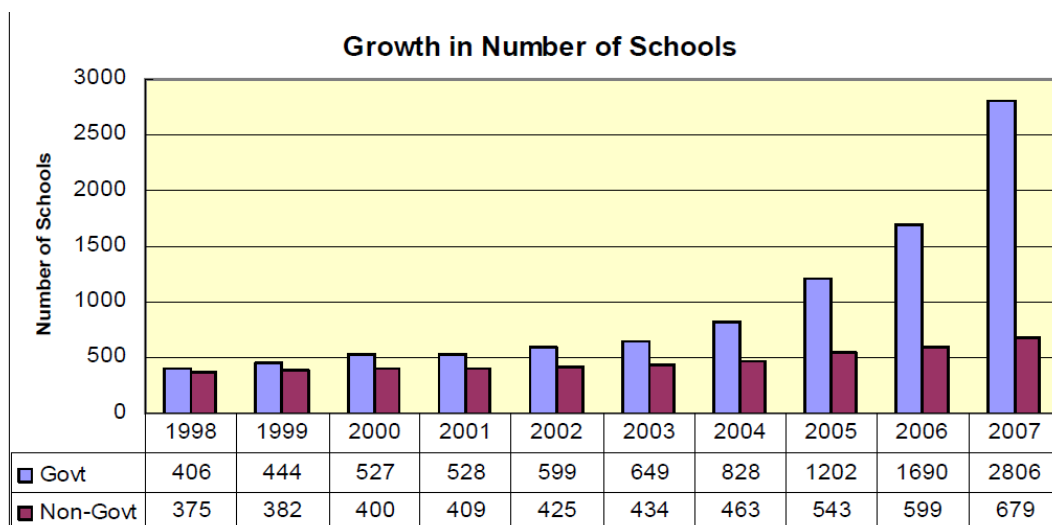
doctors, 120 graduates, a life expectancy of 38, and a literacy rate of 15%. By 1985, literacy had improved to 95% and near universal primary school enrolment.

Unfortunately, Nyerere's economic record is not as successful. In 1967, through the Arusha declaration he declared his political aspirations towards African Socialism. This announces the introduction of a socialist state and is accompanied by the nationalization of key elements in the economy. The Arusha Declaration puts agriculture at the centre of the national economy and introduces a program of 'villagisation' - meaning the moving of peasant families into cooperative villages where they can supposedly work together more productively. This *ujamaa* system boosted agricultural output and by 1978 Tanzania had a positive balance of foreign exchange payment. However, once 20% of the population moved into centralized villages voluntarily, 1972-1976 saw the forcible resettlement of an additional 60%. Subsequently, the country fell on hard economic times which was exacerbated by a war against Idi Amin's Uganda in 1978, and a six year drought. Tanzania went from the largest exporter to the largest importer of agricultural products in Africa. Although Nyerere's economic policies failed, he was one of the least corrupt African presidents after independence, and he did do a lot of good for the country. He is widely respected and idolized within Tanzania. In 1985, Nyerere was one of only 9 African presidents to resign from presidency, and Mywinyi was elected into power. This political change was accompanied by the desertion of African socialism. Tanzanian's current president is Jakaya Kikwete who was elected into power in 2005. Tanzania's GDP has grown substantially in recent years, but Human Development Indexes have fallen and poverty indicators have risen. Currently ranked, 159 out of 177 in the Human Development Index, Tanzania is one of the poorest countries in the world.



Secondary School Education in Tanzania

The history of Tanzania has had a tremendous affect on Secondary School education. Education for the masses was not a priority of the British during their colonial rule over Tanzania. The provisions that did occur focussed on the implementation of primary level schooling: secondary education only became a priority after 1956, when the shortage of skilled man power began to be noticed. This provision was extremely late, and resulted in the enrolment of only 700 form 4 (equivalent to year 11 in the UK) students by 1960. A combination of Tanzania's colonial history and a consequent focus on the promotion and funding of primary schools meant that in 2005, Tanzania had one of the lowest secondary school enrolment statistics in the world. However, in 2004 the government launched the Secondary Education Development Programme (SEDP), in order to boost secondary school enrolment. As a result, the number of schools has increased tremendously, from a total of 781 in 1998, to 3485 in 2007. This can be seen in the graph below:



(World Bank 2008)

Despite this dramatic increase in schools, the SEDP has not been without its problems; one of these is stated as being the supply of textbooks. Consequently, READ aims to provide textbooks to all registered schools in order to assist the government in achieving the aims of the SEDP.



Tanzanian Culture

As one of the most peaceful countries in Africa, Tanzania is notable for its harmonious and passive culture. Tanzanians place a premium on politeness and courtesy, and society is governed by strong social norms and etiquette. One of the most noticeable societal customs, is the emphasis that Tanzanians place on greetings. Even when conversing with strangers it is necessary to first enquire as to the listeners wellbeing. If you can learn these greetings in Swahili, the effort will be much appreciated. (For a comprehensive guide to greetings in Swahili, please see the Swahili page). Tanzania is an extremely conservative nation, it is therefore essential to think carefully about the way in which you dress. Especially when in the Muslim areas on the coast, shoulders and knees should be covered at all times. Similarly, Public displays of affection are extremely inappropriate.

